

## Don't forget to stay connected during the week!

Would you like to serve and see what God can do IN you and THROUGH you? We would like to talk to you. Let us know through your connection card or in person with one of our leaders..

A big part of our church's DNA is going out to serve to those in need, so we want to invite you to link arms with us as we serve our community. Stay tune for our next community service events.

Do you have kids between 12 and 18? Our Youth Group is a safe, fun, and purposeful place where they can grow in their faith, make friends, and discover what God has planned for their lives. We'll see them this Tuesday at 7PM.

Every Wednesday we'll have our midweek WOW service—a time to worship, learn, and connect with God. We'll see you at 7PM!

- Worship Night at Playas Church → November 14 a night to lift your voice and your heart to God. ♪ Doors open at 7:45 p.m.
- Women's Brunch Playas Church November 15 | 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. A time to connect, laugh, and grow together.

# Hello!

Glad to see you!







### MADE FOR KNOWING CHRIST

### **Series Theme Verse:**

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer. Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence. Because of his love he had already decided to adopt us through Jesus Christ. He freely chose to do this so that the kindness he had given us in his dear Son would be praised and given glory.

Through the blood of his Son, we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of his overflowing kindness. He poured out his kindness by giving us every kind of wisdom and insight when he revealed the mystery of his plan to us. He had decided to do this through Christ. He planned to bring all of history to its goal in Christ. Then Christ would be the head of everything in heaven and on earth. God also decided ahead of time to choose us through Christ according to his plan, which makes everything work the way he intends. He planned all of this so that we who had already focused our hope on Christ would praise him and give him glory.

You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. We have this guarantee until we are set free to belong to him. God receives praise and glory for this.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (GW)

### In Christ:

NOTES

- Our <u>IDENTITY</u> precedes our <u>ACTIVITY</u>. (vv. 3-6)
- Our **STATUS** comes from his **SACRIFICE**. (vv. 7-12)
- We **RECEIVE** it when we **BELIEVE** it. (vv. 13-14)

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Our anchor passage reminds us that our identity in Christ precedes anything that we do for Christ. In what ways have you been tempted to define yourself by what you do rather than who you are in Christ? How does remembering that you are chosen and loved before you do anything change the way you approach your family, work, school, or social networks?
- 2. Paul reminds us, among many things, that we are blessed, chosen, holy, set free, forgiven, and so on. Which of these truths is hardest for you to fully believe about yourself? Why do you think that particular truth is hard for you to embrace?
- 3. What practice or rhythm can you engage in to help you root your identity more deeply in Christ this week?

### **Recommended Resources:**

- ●The Bible Project: Ephesians Overview
- You Are More Than What You've Been Told, by Hosanna Wong
- •What God Says About You, by Hosanna Wong
- •The Vision of Ephesians, by N.T. Wright
- ●Life Lessons from Ephesians: Where You Belong, by Max Lucado
- ●Ephesians, by N.T. Wright



### MADE TO LIVE IN VICTORY.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:4-10 (NKJV)

• God gives us a new **NAME**, a new **PURPOSE**, and a new **FUTURE**.

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

Matthew 4:18 (NIV)

Let go of the <u>MENTALITY</u> of defeat.

Even, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me;

Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)

Obedience to God is the <u>KEY</u> that <u>UNLOCKS</u> what God has for you.

### A prayer to pray:

God, what is something you are calling me to do <u>TODAY</u>?

### How to begin obeying God:

Follow God's WORD and Follow God's DIRECTION.

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Live in victory through the <u>POWER</u> of God.

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### **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. When you recognize that it is grace—not effort—that saves you, how does that change the way you view your relationship with God and with others?
- 2. In what ways have you experienced God "working in you" to transform your character or purpose? How might these changes prepare you to join God in His "good works"?
- 3. In what areas do you feel that sin or self-reliance are still working against God's grace in your life? What practices could help you remain grounded in the truth that you are God's handiwork, created to do good and live and Victory,



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